

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Douglas McArthur Nelson for his contributions to our community and for his years of service at Berean Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Douglas McArthur Nelson.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, today is World Refugee Day, a day of honoring the courage and raising the plight of more than 8 million refugees and 23.7 million internally displaced persons around the world. This year, on the sixth anniversary of the United Nations-designated World Refugee Day, organizations in hundreds of countries will come together to focus global attention on those refugees who have been displaced by natural disasters or were forced to leave their homes, native countries, and loved ones due to the political, ethnic or religious oppression and persecution they would have faced otherwise.

The United States historically has led efforts to assist various refugee populations, as exemplified through U.S. efforts to assist Vietnamese refugees in the late 1970s. Now, in the 21st century, the U.S. has a particularly compelling reason to focus on the Iraqi refugee crisis. Approximately 2 million Iraqi refugees have fled persecution, violence, threats of kidnapping and death threats, mostly moving to Syria and Jordan. The threats have been dire for ethnic and religious minorities. At least 1.9 million people are displaced within Iraq. Many of these 3.9 million have been targeted due to their work for the U.S. Government, NGOs or the media.

There have been important steps taken in Congress to address the concerns of refugees related to Afghanistan and Iraq, such as encouraging the provision of special immigrant status for translators or interpreters serving with Federal agencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, since 2003, the U.S. Government has allowed only 466 Iraqi refugees to enter the U.S. It is important that the U.S. initiate more active measures to assist these refugees, such as increasing the number of Iraqis that are brought into the resettlement program. During a recent trip to the Middle East, I heard stories of Iraqi refugees and the dire threats that forced them to flee their homeland.

Madam Speaker, in addition to spotlighting the situation of Iraqi refugees, it is vital that the international community continue to shine a spotlight on the situation facing refugees from and displaced persons in Burma. The military dictatorship continues its campaign against the ethnic peoples through forced labor, the use of rape as a weapon of terror, destruction of food sources, destruction of over 3,000 villages in the last few years, and the use of ethnic peoples as human land mine sweepers. Unfortunately, certain countries believe it is in their interest to keep this regime in power—I would heartily disagree. The refugee and displacement crisis in Burma could be resolved immediately if the regime were to step down and allow the rightfully elected leaders of Burma to take office.

World Refugee Day is a day for the international community, governments and citizens alike, to show our common concern for refugees and displaced persons. Most people in the world would love to stay in their homeland, but frequently conflicts and other situations force them to leave. Our country was founded by people fleeing oppression. The U.S. must continue to be the global leader in refugee protection in the Middle East, in Southeast Asia, and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "RED" PENSINGER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Robert "Red" Pensinger, former mayor of Greencastle, PA. Mayor Pensinger passed away in his home on Saturday, June 16. Born in Marion, PA, on February 22, 1933, Mayor Pensinger spent his life in the Greencastle area as a civic leader and successful businessman.

"Red," as he was lovingly called, brought great enthusiasm and esteem not only to his office as mayor, but to his many other activities within the community as well. Robert dedicated his life to the betterment of his community, giving his time and energy to various organizations. He influenced and mentored hundreds of young people through his participation in the Boy Scouts of America, of which he was a Scout master, and Kauffman's Little League team, which he managed. Members of the community also looked up to "Red," recognizing and appreciating his devotion to the town, his positive outlook and pleasant demeanor.

The former mayor was also a leader in business, establishing a State Farm Insurance Agency in Greencastle in 1965 and leading it to become the largest agency in Pennsylvania and the fifth largest in the Nation. He served in the State Farm President's Club and was a six-time Legion of Honor winner. In addition to operating his insurance agency, Robert served as vice-chairman of the board of directors for Tower Bancorp Inc. and the First National Bank of Greencastle. He served on the Chamber of Commerce, which awarded him with the 1997 James P. Oliver Award for his leadership and community involvement.

While I could go on listing the countless organizations and people to whom "Red" gave his time and energy, it is safe to say that his contributions to the Greencastle community are endless. Robert touched the lives of thousands and impacted each one of them tremendously. Mayor Pensinger served as a role model for many, and it is my hope that those who were lucky enough to know him will continue his legacy and enthusiasm for bettering the community and the lives of others.

Robert's wife, Nancy, and his family and friends are certainly proud and honored by his remarkable work and devotion to improving the lives of others. His community service and achievements are remarkable, and his presence will be sorely missed. Robert Pensinger was a celebrated leader in business and the community, and words cannot express his value to the people of Greencastle or their love and devotion to their late mayor.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN COREY PEGUES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the work and achievements of Captain Corey Pegues. Corey, born and raised in Queens, New York, was a student of the public school system. He graduated from high school in 1986, and subsequently enlisted in the United States Army.

As a member of the Army, Corey assumed the position of Medical Specialist after receiving training at Fort Sam Houston. Corey was assigned to a Calvary Unit in Fort Drum, New York, and remained there until his honorable discharge in 1991. After leaving the U.S. Army, he enlisted in the New York State National Guard, and remained with the National Guard for 14 years. As an example of Corey's devotion to civil service, he also decided to enroll in the New York City Police Academy while still serving in the National Guard.

Corey was able to maintain the same exceptional quality of work that has defined his career, while serving in both the National Guard and the New York City Police Department. The NYPD promoted Corey to the rank of Sergeant in 1998, and Lieutenant in 2002. Captain Pegues assumed many positions within the NYPD, including Lieutenant Platoon Commander, Special Operations Lieutenant and Administrative Lieutenant.

In 2006, the NYPD once again promoted Corey; this time, to the rank of Captain. After 11 months, Corey was transferred to a new police station where he now serves as Commanding Officer. For the past two years, in addition to his role as a law enforcement official, Captain Pegues has also served his community as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Monroe Community College.

Corey also serves as the President and Founding Member of the Long Island Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives—a nationally recognized organization that consists of many chapters across the country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Captain Corey Pegues for his constant desire to protect and serve the citizens of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Captain Corey Pegues.

BINGE DRINKING AND LEGAL AGE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in 1984, President Reagan signed the 21 minimum drinking age into law, saying "This problem is bigger than the individual States. It's a grave national problem, and it touches all our lives. With the problem so clear-cut and the proven solution at hand, we have no misgiving about this judicious use of Federal power. I'm convinced that it will help persuade State legislators to act in the national interest to save our children's